

also applied to governmental plans. Unfortunately, these limitations do not take into account the design and operation differences between public and private pensions. Some governmental pensions are designed to offer higher compensation to long-tenured, but low paid workers, or include special accounting of disability and survivor benefits, leading to violation of the pension limitations and endangering the plan's tax-exempt status. If this status is revoked, the benefits paid by such plans would be much smaller than otherwise. To prevent this, my bill lifts such restrictions on governmental pensions, allowing continuation of the special nature of these pensions without threatening their tax status.

This measure is key for public sector employees. Like those in the private sector, they need a reliable, safe retirement system and the flexibility to plan for retirement. My legislation provides the necessary changes to provide this security and flexibility. I urge my colleagues to join me by cosponsoring this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO TUFTS UNIVERSITY TUFTONIA'S DAY 1996

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tufts University in Medford, MA and to honor its 88,000 plus alumni on the occasion of the 12th annual celebration of Tuftonia's Day.

On April 21, Tufts students, alumni, professors, administrators, and parents gathered on its campuses in Medford, Boston, and Grafton, MA and around the country and world to observe Tuftonia's Day, a holiday that is dedicated to celebrating the achievements of the Tufts community. This day derives its name from the title of the revered Tufts football fight song written by E.W. Hayes, class of 1916. Tufts University is a world class institution of higher education that was founded in 1852 by Charles Tufts. From the undergraduate through the professional degree level Tufts University instills in its students the importance of volunteerism and the need to give something back to one's local community.

The theme of this year's Tuftonia's Day was TuftServe, which focused on volunteer alumni involvement in community service. Last year, Tufts University alumni recorded more than 19,000 volunteer hours of community service. This is an outstanding record that should serve as an inspiration to us all. I congratulate the alumni of Tufts University for their hard work, their dedication and their loyalty.

HONORING THE GASSAWAY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Gassaway Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people

give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MUSIC EDUCATION IN CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the important link between music and the brain—more specifically, how music makes us smarter. This is a timely subject as States and localities throughout the country are evaluating and reforming their education systems, and as we, at the Federal level, are determining funding priorities for education programs. In each case, the goal will be to ensure the highest academic achievement. Music is essential for making that goal a reality.

My hometown of Nashville, TN, is known as Music City, USA. Nashvillians are exposed to all types of music every day, and consequently, we have an inherent sense of the beneficial and profound impact that music has on our lives. But the impact extends far beyond making us feel good. We now have scientific evidence that instructing children in music leads to dramatically improved math and complex reasoning skills, in addition to the discipline and sense of self worth that we all know music provides. This research is described in the February 19, 1996, issue of Newsweek magazine. I recommend the article to parents, educators, Members of Congress, and anyone else who cares about the education and development of our children.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM PARTNERSHIP ACT

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to report that today H.R. 2579, the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act, has 226 cosponsors—a majority of the House of Representatives.

Two hundred twenty-six Members of the House understand that travel and tourism means economic prosperity for millions of Americans.

Two hundred twenty-six Members understand that the travel and tourism industry is the first, second, or third largest employer in every congressional district in America.

Nationwide, the industry employs over 13 million people. That translates to one out of every nine Americans.

Mr. Speaker, last week you and I and millions of other Americans wrote out a check to the government and paid our taxes.

Thanks to the travel and tourism industry—the second largest industry in the Nation—you and I and every household in the United States paid \$652 less on their tax bill.

That's because the travel and tourism industry puts \$54 billion into the U.S. Treasury in the way of tax revenue.

Ironically, last week, on April 15, the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration was forced to close its doors forever.

Closing USTTA means U.S. tourism promotion efforts drop to zero.

That's why H.R. 2579 is so important. The Travel and Tourism Partnership Act will make sure that in this \$3.4-trillion industry, the United States claims its fair share of the pie.

According to futurist John Naisbitt, three industries will drive the global economy of the 21st century: telecommunications, information technology, and travel and tourism.

With the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act, we now have the chance to reshape our approach and our economic future with this monumental industry.

You've all heard the statistics before:

First, tourism employs 204 million people worldwide: almost as many people as we have living in the U.S., minus California. That equals 10 percent of the global workforce. And in the United States alone, travel and tourism accounts for one out of every nine employees.

Second, tourism produces \$655 billion dollars in Federal, State, and local tax revenue.

Third, more than 10 percent of all capital investment worldwide goes into travel and tourism. Maybe that's why travel and tourism is growing 23 percent faster than the world economy.

However, in this vastly growing market, 2 million fewer visitors came to the United States last year. That's a 19 percent decrease.

H.R. 2579 addresses this critical problem of declining U.S. market share.

In a \$300 billion international travel market, the United States of America should not be getting the short end of the stick.

Why is the U.S. losing ground?

The major reason for this slippage is that we are being out-classed and out-hustled by other nations' tourism promotion campaigns.